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Agricultural Situation

JULY 1962
Vol. 46, No. 7

Statistical Reporting Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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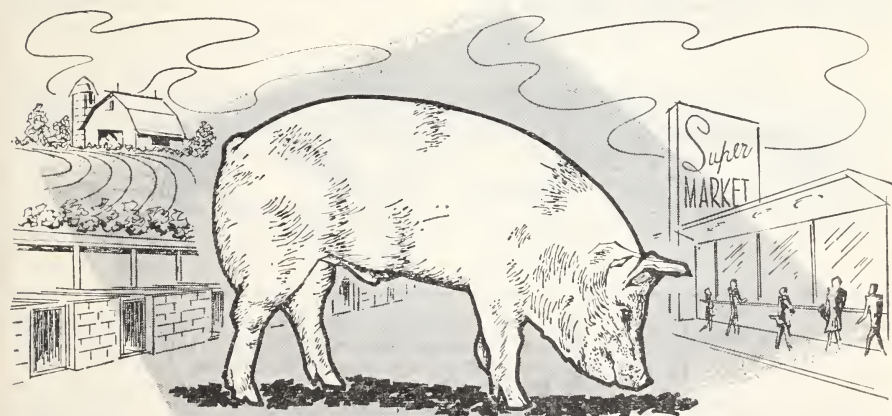
SMALLER SPRING AND LARGER FALL PIG CROPS IN 1962

Reports based on farmers' intentions indicate that 6.1 million sows will farrow in the fall of 1962 (June through November). This is 2 percent larger than the corresponding number for the fall of 1961 and 12 percent above the 1951-60 average.

All of the expected increase in the number of sows to farrow this fall was accounted for in the Corn Belt.

If the number of sows that farrow remains unchanged from the intentions, and if the number of pigs saved per litter equals the 10-year average with an allowance for trend, the 1962 fall pig crop will be 43.0 million head, 1 percent larger than the 1961 fall crop.

The 1962 spring crop, which totaled 49,622,000 head, was 2 percent smaller than the 1961 spring crop and 7 percent



smaller than the 10-year average. The number of 1962 spring pigs was smaller than the number of 1961 spring pigs in all regions of the country except in the South Atlantic and Western Region. The 7.0 million sows that farrowed this spring represent little change from a year earlier but are 10 percent less than the average.

Fewer Pigs Per Litter

Pigs saved per litter in the spring of 1962 was 7.08, which is about 2 percent less than a year earlier. This accounts for most of the decline in the number of pigs saved, since the number of sows farrowed was about the same as a year earlier.

In five of the last six years, the average has exceeded 7.00 pigs per litter. Despite winter losses due to disease and unfavorable weather, the number of pigs saved per litter this spring has been exceeded only in 1957 and 1961 and equaled in 1959.

The total of spring pigs plus expected fall pigs for 1962 amounts to 92.6 million head—1 percent less than the spring-fall total for 1961 but 2 percent above the average of 90.8 million head.

Selected States

The intended number of sows for 1962 fall farrowings in 10 of the Corn Belt States (States that normally account for three-fourths of the annual

pig crop) is 3 percent larger than a year earlier. These States are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

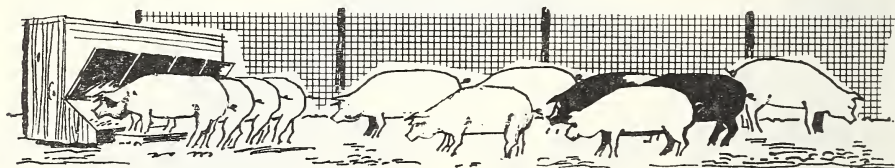
Present intentions indicate that there will be a 4 percent increase in the number of sows to farrow during June, July, and August and a 2-percent increase in the number to farrow during September, October, and November. The total for the fall period (June through November) of 4,602,000 sows is 19 percent above the 1951-60 average.

In these States the number of spring sows for 1962 totaled 5,420,000 head or about the same level as a year earlier, but 8 percent less than the average. The increase over a year earlier in December-February sows was 4 percent, but a decline of 2 percent occurred in the March-May farrowings.

The June 1, 1962, number of hogs and pigs on farms in these 10 States was 1 percent less than a year earlier. The total was 48,840,000 head.

The June 1 number of hogs 6 months old and over was 11,128,000 head or 4 percent more than last year. The proportion of sows and gilts intended in the 6-months-plus age groups was about the same as a year earlier. The number of hogs and pigs 3 to 6 months of age was only slightly more than a year ago. The number of pigs under 3 months of age was 3 percent smaller.

R. M. Pallesen
Statistical Reporting Service



The Agricultural Situation is sent free to crop, livestock, and price reporters in connection with their reporting work.

The Agricultural Situation is a monthly publication of the Statistical Reporting Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. The printing of this publication has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget (January 8, 1959). Single copy 5 cents, subscription price 50 cents a year, foreign \$1, payable in check or money order to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

CURRENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK FOR WOOL

The average price farmers receive for shorn wool can be expected to decline during the second half of 1962, as mill use seasonally declines. Prices will probably be 4 to 6 percent less this fall and winter than they were this spring. This anticipated moderate downward movement of prices could be altered by significant changes in the level of world prices. However, world supplies and consumption are about in balance, which is reflected in relatively stable world wool prices.

Growers received an average of 42.9 cents a pound (grease basis) for shorn wool during the 1961-62 marketing year. On the basis of this price, the incentive payments for the 1961-62 marketing year for shorn wool were 44.5 percent of the dollar returns each producer received from the sale of shorn wool. The payment on sales of unshorn lambs was 76 cents per hundredweight of live animals sold.

At the seasonally adjusted rates of the first 4 months, mill consumption of apparel wool can be expected to total 285 million pounds, clean, in 1962 compared with 263 million last year. This substantial rise in mill use is likely as consumer incomes are increasing, and unfilled orders of apparel fabrics are high.

Apparel wool mill use increased substantially during the last quarter of 1961 and the first quarter of 1962. During the first 4 months of 1962, the usage was 29 percent greater than the same period a year earlier. The worsted system's share increased significantly during early 1962. The use of the finer grades of wool has also been rising in recent months. In addition, wool has increased its share of the total fibers used in apparel wool mill consumption; that of the manmade and vegetable fibers has declined.

Reflecting the increase in apparel wool mill use, the expected lower domestic production, and the building-up of commercial wool stocks, imports of dutiable raw wool have increased significantly during the first 4 months of

1962. They were 52 percent above the comparable period of 1961 and the highest since the first 4 months of 1956. Australia and South Africa are the leading sources of this supply. With mill use of the finer wools increasing, dutiable imports of wool grading 60's and finer have risen substantially.

Mill use of carpet wools has been declining moderately from the relatively higher levels of last fall. At the seasonally adjusted rates of the first 4 months, carpet wool mill consumption in 1962 can be expected to total 135 million pounds, clean, compared with 147 million in 1961. Carpet wool use during the first 4 months of 1962 was 7 percent more than the same period last year.

Imports of duty-free wools during the first 4 months of 1962 were 22 percent less than a comparable period of 1961. New Zealand and Argentina are the principal sources of this supply. This reflects the working down of commercial carpet wool stocks and the slightly unstable mill use of carpet wool.

Total per capita domestic consumption of wool, cotton, and manmade fibers in 1961 was 35.7 pounds, 2 percent less than in 1960 and 3 percent less than the 1955-59 average. The use of wool and cotton declined; that of manmade fibers increased. Per capita domestic use of wool was 2.9 pounds in 1961, 2 percent less than a year earlier but 2 percent more than the 1955-59 average. The import balance of foreign trade in wool textile products accounted for 0.67 of a pound of wool or 23 percent of the 1961 per person domestic use of wool. Per capita use of apparel wool amounted to 1.95 pounds; that of carpet wool, 0.95 of a pound.

Charles E. Raymond
Economic Research Service

The Farmer's Share

In April 1962 the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 38 cents, a cent less than it was in March. In April 1961 the farmer's share was also 38 cents.

SOME OILSEED CROPS PERMITTED ON DIVERTED ACREAGE IN 1962

On May 18, 1962, the USDA announced wheat and feed grain program changes which permit farmers greater flexibility in using acreage diverted from these crops in 1962. The changes are authorized by Public Law 87-451 (an amendment to the Agricultural Act of 1961) which was enacted May 15, 1962.

The new law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to permit acreage diverted from wheat and feed grains to be planted to annual nonsupported field crops and flax when these crops are not in surplus supply and will not be in surplus if produced on the diverted acreage. No price support may be made available for production of any such designated crops on the diverted acreage.

The new law also empowers the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a partial payment for these crops, up to one-half the diversion rate which would otherwise be applicable if the acreage was devoted to conservation uses.

Flaxseed, rapeseed, and mustardseed have been added to the list of crops that may be grown on 1962 diverted acreage in addition to guar, sesame, safflower, sunflower, and castorbeans which were previously permitted in 1961.

Accordingly, a determination has been made to provide partial payments for 1962 on diverted acreage planted to the following crops:

Crop	Proportion of Diversion Payment Retained
Sesame	40 percent.
Castorbeans	30 percent.
Guar	20 percent.
Sunflower	
Safflower	
Flaxseed	No payment— but permitted.
Rapeseed	
Mustardseed	

Domestic requirements for sesame, castorbeans, guar, and sunflower seed, the commodities for which partial payments are authorized in 1962, are mainly supplied from imports. It follows, therefore, that any expansion in domestic acreage and production would

make the U.S. more self-sufficient in these items.

In 1961, imports supplied 85-90 percent of our total requirements for castorbeans, guar gum, and whole sesame seed. In the case of sunflowers, only about one-third of the total whole seed requirements were met through imports.

In the past, the availability of land has not been a major factor limiting the expansion of most of the crops that may be planted on diverted acreage in 1962. For the most part, these crops are usually grown under contracts with buyers and processors. Therefore, their expansion will depend more on the availability of contracts than on land. Some farmers will try one or more of these crops in 1962, especially where part of the diversion payment is retained.

Here is a little background on some of these not-too-familiar crops:

Guar is a legume grown mainly in the Rolling Plains of Southwest Oklahoma and adjoining areas of Texas and in the Texas Coastal Plain. The beans are the source of the gum, the major cash value product of guar, which is used in foods such as ice cream and cheese spreads. Nonfood uses include paper making, textiles, explosives, and use as a mining mineral. About half of the guar now grown is used as a soil building crop and for livestock feed.

Sunflowers are produced chiefly in North Dakota and California and are utilized mainly as whole seed in poultry and bird feed mixtures. Sunflowers are adaptable to a wide variety of climate and soils and could be grown commercially throughout the Corn Belt.

Castorbeans, safflower, and flaxseed are produced mainly for the oil they contain which is utilized industrially as a drying oil in paints, varnishes and other protective coatings. In recent years there has been some increase in the edible uses of safflower oil, and this appears to be its most promising potential.

George W. Kromer
Economic Research Service

PEACE CORPS OFFERS AMERICAN FARM YOUTH A CHANCE TO SERVE

It is not easy to serve in the Peace Corps. The entrance tests are thorough, the interviews probing, and the training rigorous.

This, however, should not discourage American farm youth from looking into the possibilities for training, travel, and individual accomplishment offered by the Peace Corps.

Our agricultural know-how is much in demand in underdeveloped areas of the world.

- In Tanganyika, Peace Corps volunteers are surveying a network of farm-to-market roads, which extend to the most remote agricultural areas.

- In Colombia, volunteers are aiding depressed rural areas by helping to increase farm productivity and attain economic and social stability.

- In Chile, increased farm production is a major goal. Even though 40 percent of the country's population is engaged in agriculture, these producers contribute only 17 percent to Chile's national production.

There is a relatively small amount of tillable land, which is concentrated in the narrow valley of the central region of this 2,600-mile-long republic.

Volunteers give practical demonstrations of general farming methods, fruit tree culture, and care and vaccination of livestock.

- About 30 volunteers, many experienced in farm management and extension methods, will be assigned to the Punjab State in northern India. There they will demonstrate techniques of cultivation and irrigation, as well as the operation of agricultural tools.

These are but a few Corps projects in which we are exporting our agricultural knowledge.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can find out more about the Peace Corps from several sources.

Write to the Peace Corps, Washington 25, D.C., for a questionnaire. Questionnaires are also available from Congressmen and Senators, at post offices, colleges, and universities, from county agents of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and from labor unions.

Less Maple Sirup Produced This Year

Maple sirup producers in the United States made 1,372,000 gallons of sirup this spring. Production was down 8 percent from last year, but was one-fifth larger than the low productions of 1959 and 1960.

This year's production is valued at \$6.5 million, compared with \$7.1 million in 1961. The average price received by producers this year was \$4.71 per gallon. Last year's larger output returned an average of \$4.78 per gallon to producers.

Maple sirup is produced in 11 States. Vermont and New York usually produce about two-thirds of the total.

This spring, Vermont produced 367,000 gallons of maple sirup, 30 percent

less than last spring. The other New England States produced 15 percent less than last year.

Production was up this year in New York—524,000 gallons, 11 percent more than a year ago and the largest output since 1947.

Production of maple sirup was down in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Maryland—up in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota.

In recent years, about 6 percent of the total maple sirup production has been used on the farm where produced. If the same proportion is retained for home use this year, 1.3 million gallons of maple sirup will be sold.

Ella Sue Minor
Statistical Reporting Service

WHAT LIES AHEAD IN CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING?



Dr. Trelogan

by

Dr. Harry C. Trelogan
Administrator,
Statistical Reporting
Service

Improvements in accuracy, coverage and timeliness—this is what the future holds for crop and livestock estimates. It means improvements in gathering data from three-quarter million volunteer reporters and through our own measurements; it means improvements in our methods of tabulating and processing the data to arrive at estimates which will be more precise; it means improvements in our system of disseminating reports.

The improvements which we expect in the future are indicated by the trends of the past, and especially those of recent years. This Centennial year of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is a good occasion to review these changes that form the trends in this business of crop and livestock reporting.

When crop and livestock reporting began, 23 years before the U.S. Department of Agriculture was created in 1862, most people lived on farms, and most farm families tried to produce things for their own use. Once a year seemed often enough to estimate the

production of corn, wheat, cotton, cattle, hogs, and other products. The data were important primarily in those seasons when products surplus to the family needs were traded.

As agriculture has become more commercialized, and as huge industries have grown up to supply the needs of agriculture and to process and distribute the products of agriculture, demands have arisen for more statistics on more kinds of products, in greater detail, more often, and with greater precision. Those demands have been reflected in the trends of statistical reports by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and cooperating State agencies. In part, the needs of the immediate future may be regarded as projections of those trends. But they also reflect the fact that as we have learned new skills in farming, we also have learned new skills in statistics.

Let me point out one or two examples of greater frequency and detail required by modern agricultural production. In years past it was enough to know how

many cattle there were in the United States on the first of January, compared with numbers at the same time the year before and in previous years. Later it became important to know how many of these cattle were kept for milk and how many for beef. Making this distinction was one of the difficult estimating problems of the 1930's when dual purpose cattle were more prevalent and when farmers often milked beef cows for some cash income during hard times.

Specialized production has pushed this problem into the background. It is important now to estimate cattle on feed and to indicate the numbers by weight groups, length of time on feed, and locations so that producers and dealers can judge the probable time and place of marketing. Growth of cattle feeding operations in some States has not been sufficient to warrant even annual reports, but in other States annual, semiannual, then quarterly reports were needed. And in three States—California, Arizona, and Colorado—reports are now provided each month.

The broiler chicken business has grown so rapidly that we now report each week the number of broiler-type chicks sold by hatcheries to broiler producers in each of 22 States, and how many birds are handled by dressing plants. We've come a long way from a once-a-year count of chickens on farms. In the future we may anticipate requests to include more States in our reports of broiler chicks placed, chickens slaughtered, or cattle on feed.

As commercial production of vegetables has grown, our reports have become more numerous. We estimate production by States of vegetables for fresh market and those for processing, by seasonal groups. In Florida and Texas, we recently began weekly reports on the acreage of tomatoes planted each week and the stage of harvest. It seems probable that we shall be called upon to develop more reports on the flow of vegetables to market and more detailed information on the output of vegetable processing plants.

The matter of timeliness is one that causes us concern, principally because

of the greater volume of data to be handled and the cost involved. Aside from the continuous effort made to induce farmers to submit reports promptly, several mechanical or electronic methods are now available for faster handling and transmission of data. Most of our data now moves by mail, from volunteer reporters to State offices and then to National headquarters in Washington, D.C. It would be possible for much of the information to move by wire, thus speeding up operations by several days. But in view of the much higher expense involved there is a question as to whether the savings in time would be worth the cost.

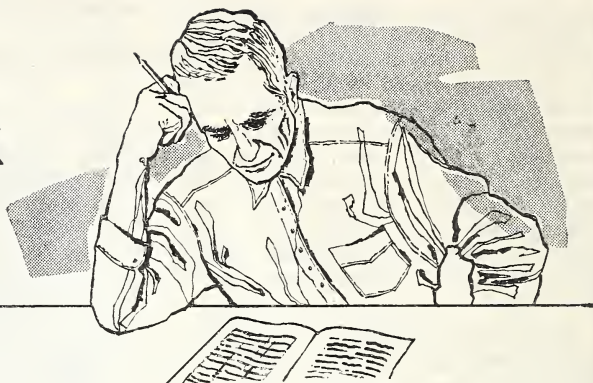
Electronic data processing also represents an opportunity for time-saving in data handling and analysis, but the gains made from the use of this type of equipment will be absorbed by the additional data processing necessary to achieve greater accuracy.

In contrast with the past, when progress has been evidenced by broader coverage to the point where over 700 reports are issued each year, the most urgent need in the immediate future is to assure the accuracy of our estimates. We have been working on this for several years by making actual counts of acres and animals and poultry in scientifically selected sample areas, and by measuring random sample test plots for yield information during the growing season and at harvest time. These efforts supplement the information provided by thousands of farmers and ranchers in every State.

After the information from your reports and from the test plots is tabulated, we hope to be able to use our knowledge of statistics to indicate the degree of confidence that can be placed in the estimates.

This is the type of statistical reporting demanded by modern business management and economic analysts. It is the kind of reporting that should lead to better business decisions, resulting in fewer instances of shortages and surpluses compared with market needs, thereby leading to more stable, remunerative prices. It is the kind of reporting we hope the Statistical Reporting Service, with your continued help, can provide.

outlook



FATS AND OILS

Current estimates of production, domestic disappearance, and exports indicate stocks of edible oils (cottonseed, soybean, salad, and cooking) will continue at a high level during the remainder of the year. On October 1, stocks will probably total about 1.0 billion pounds, around double the average in recent years. Soybean oil prices during the rest of the marketing year are expected to continue at about 20 percent below the July–September 1961 average of 10.8 cents a pound. Soybean meal exports are up sharply and probably will set a new record of about 900,000 tons. The previous record was 649,000 tons, established in 1959–60.

LIVESTOCK



Total meat production this summer is not likely to change much. The cut-back in hog slaughter will be largely offset by gain in cattle slaughter. Meat production is above that of a year earlier so far, and probably will continue at the higher level for remainder of year. Cattle, calf, and lamb prices are up, while hog prices are lower than last year.

Marketings of fed cattle are expected to increase after midyear. Prices of fed cattle probably will decline this summer and likely will drop below year earlier prices this fall. Marketings of cows and other cattle off grass this summer and fall are expected to be seasonally large and higher than a year earlier.

Lamb prices are expected to decline seasonally this summer but continue well above those of last summer. If the late-lamb crop is smaller than a year earlier (which now seems likely), prices this fall and winter will probably remain above a year earlier.

BROILERS

Despite the prospect of reduced export sales some time in the third quarter, prices are likely to continue above the 12.3 cents per pound average for the same period last year.

FEED GRAINS

Early June prospects were generally favorable. Rainfall was above normal in much of the North Central region, favoring growth of small grains and forage crops. Prospects for barley are much better than last year in the Northern Plains.

COTTON



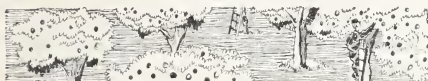
Supply for the current season is estimated at 21.7 million bales, down 400,000 from 1960–61. The carryover on August 1 is expected to be about 500,000 bales more than the 7.2 million a year earlier. Consumption by domestic mills is expected to be about 9.0 million bales. It was 8.3 million the previous year. Exports during this season are expected to total around 5.0 million bales, about 1.6 million less than last season.

EGGS



Prices are likely to rise more this summer than last, but they may continue to average less during this period than in 1961, though summer output will probably continue higher than in 1961. In the last quarter, layers on farms likely will be fewer than in 1961, but egg production may not be much different than in same quarter last year.

FRUIT



Production of deciduous fruit in 1962 is expected to be under the large output of last year, but above average. Compared to 1961, prospect is for small increases for pears, sweet cherries, sour cherries, and dried prunes in California. Small-to-substantial decreases are indicated for apricots, fresh plums in California, peaches, and strawberries. Decreased apple production was indicated as of June 1. Substantially more California walnuts, but much less almonds, are expected.

DAIRY



Production gains in April and May were lower than in the first quarter but indicate record production for 1962. Price declines since March point to lower cash receipts in the remainder of year than in 1961. Per capita consumption of fluid milk may be slightly lower this year than last, but increased total consumption is indicated. Use of non-fat dry milk was down sharply the first 4 months of 1962, but drop in price and prospect of increased use by bakers favor greater use the rest of the year.

VEGETABLES

The early-June estimate pointed to slightly less fresh vegetables, excluding melons, in early summer than a year ago, but materially more than the 1951-60 average.

WHEAT

The 1962 crop may be one of the smallest in recent years. The total of 1,058 million bushels currently estimated is 14 percent below last year, and the least since 1957. The supply for 1962-63 may be about 2,410 million bushels, a drop of 9 percent from last year. Further stock reduction is indicated for July 1, 1963.



Recent USDA Publications

Zoning for Rural Areas, USDA Leaflet No. 510

If you are concerned with the ever increasing need for rural zoning, this leaflet will be of interest to you. It briefly answers the questions:

- WHAT IS ZONING?
- CAN EVERY COMMUNITY ZONE?
- WHY ZONE RURAL AREAS?
- WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO ZONE?
- WHAT CAN YOU DO?

It also tells how to get more information on the subject.

You may obtain a free copy of this publication by writing to the editor, Agricultural Situation, Division of Information, MOS, USDA, Washington 25, D.C.

TURKEYS: ONE OF AGRICULTURE'S LEADING GROWTH INDUSTRIES

Turkey production has increased dramatically in the United States in recent years. Last year, farmers raised 64 percent more turkeys than six years earlier. Output expanded to 108 million birds in 1961 from 66 million in 1955.

Reasons for Growth

The spectacular growth has been largely a product of outstanding improvements in technology, changes in the structure and organization of the turkey industry, and a rising consumer demand for turkey. These developments, however, do not fully account for last year's huge 28 percent increase in output.

Increases in the number of turkeys raised between 1955 and 1961 occurred everywhere but on the East Coast. The rate of expansion was most rapid in the central part of the country, particularly in the West North Central States. Changes in the number of turkeys raised between 1955 and 1961 by regions were as follows: West North Central, up 125 percent; East North Central, up 86 percent; South Central, up 72 percent; Western, up 59 percent; South Atlantic, unchanged; and the North Atlantic, down 29 percent.

As a result of the regional changes, turkey production has become much more concentrated in the central regions. Last year, 62 percent of all turkeys were raised in the East North Central, the West North Central and the South Central Regions, compared with 50 percent in 1955. During the same period, the proportion of turkeys raised in the West slipped from 25 to 24 percent. But the Atlantic Region's proportional share fell sharply from 25 to 14 percent.

Regional Changes

Regional changes in turkey production have not generally paralleled changes in broiler production. The expansion in broilers has occurred mostly in the Southeast. Here are some of the reasons for this:

- First, climate is a much more important consideration in turkey production than in broiler production. Turkeys, particularly those grown to heavy weights, can't stand hot weather as well as broilers. Turkeys have also been more susceptible to disease, especially where the climate is both hot and humid. Both of these conditions exist to a much greater extent in the South Atlantic States than in the central part of the country. This has tended to discourage turkey production in the South Atlantic States.

- Second, feed costs make up a larger part of the total cost of producing turkeys than they do in the case of broilers. Thus, the East North Central and West North Central Regions with the lowest feed costs have the greatest comparative advantage in the production of turkeys in relation to the production of broilers.

- Third, turkey production is much more seasonal than broiler and egg production. Therefore, it does not lend itself as well to the type of integration which developed in the Southeast. The relative stability of broiler and egg production permitted integrators in the Southeast to achieve economies by utilizing their plants at a relatively high level of capacity the year 'round.

North Atlantic States

Finally, the number of turkeys raised between 1955-60 in the North Atlantic States declined because the marketing charge narrowed. Turkey producers in this area traditionally retailed a large proportion of their birds in fresh form. In recent years, frozen turkey has won wider acceptance and this has greatly reduced the premium that used to be paid for locally produced fresh turkey. At the same time, chain stores have come to feature turkey frequently throughout the year as a leader at close to cost. As a result of these developments, returns to producers for marketing turkeys in the North Atlantic States have been greatly lowered.

Herman Bluestone
Economic Research Service

WHAT IS CROPLAND WORTH?

The price of a farm or a tract of land depends chiefly upon the proportion that is cropland and the price per acre. Although there is usually some permanent pasture, wasteland, and often buildings, in the farm real estate "package," cropland accounts for about 70 percent of the market value of all farmland in the eastern half of the country.

The proportion goes above 80 percent in the Corn Belt, and as low as 40 to 50 percent in the Northeast and Southeast. Except in the Northeast, where large cities boost land values above agricultural values, the Corn Belt has the highest market values for cropland. In 1960, Illinois led at \$307 per acre, followed by Iowa and Indiana at about \$250 per acre.

The acreage of pasture and other land in the 35 humid States is a little larger than the acreage of cropland, but its per-acre value is less than half that of cropland—\$74, compared with \$159.

Irrigation is the most important factor affecting the price of cropland in

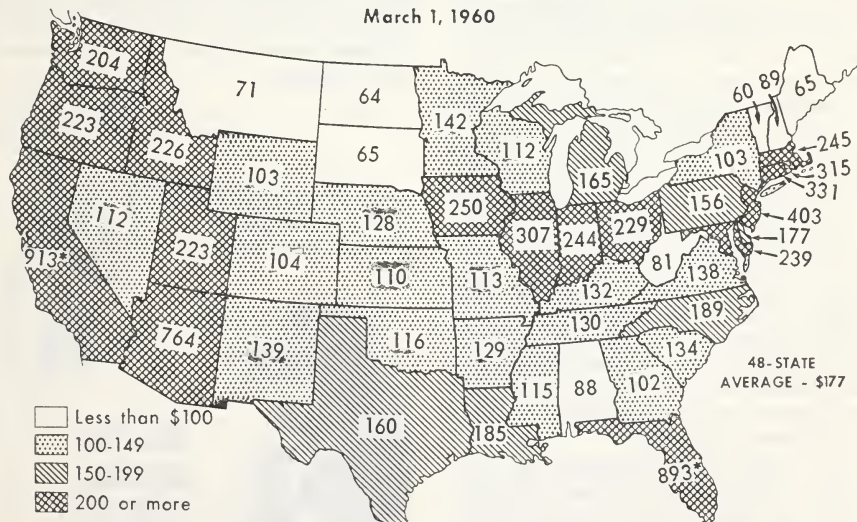
Nebraska, Texas, and the 11 Western States. Although there were only 28 million acres of irrigated cropland in these 13 States—5 percent of the land in farms—such land accounted for more than a third of the total value of all land in farms in 1960. Two-thirds of the farm acreage was pasture, but with much lower values per acre, it accounted for only a third of the total value.

Average values of cropland in California and Florida are further affected by the use of such land for citrus groves, fruit and nut orchards, and vineyards. The 1.4 million acres of orchards, vineyards, and groves in California, for example, has an average value of \$2,300 per acre, or nearly \$3.3 billion of the State's total value of \$12 billion for land. An additional 5 million acres of irrigated land used for annual field crops averaged \$833 per acre, or a total of \$4.1 billion. In Florida, the 724,000 acres in orchards (mostly citrus) average about \$2,500 per acre, and, with a total value of \$1.8 billion, accounted for three-fifths of the value of all land.

Farm Real Estate

VALUE OF CROPLAND PER ACRE °

March 1, 1960



Averaging all 48 States together, the 382 million acres of cropland had an average value of \$177 per acre, and a total value of \$67.5 billion in 1960. This compares with about \$50 per acre for pasture, and \$41 for other land. All land (excluding farm buildings) averaged \$91 per acre. The total market value of all land was estimated at \$102 billion on March 1, 1960.

William H. Scofield
Economic Research Service

FARM SAFETY WEEK, JULY 22-28, 1962

The theme for the 1962 National Farm Safety Week, July 22-28, is "Family Safety—at Work and Play." This program is sponsored by the National Safety Council, with cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture and the support of educational and farm organizations.

Statistics show that farm accidents peak in July and August because of increased farm activity at that time. This brings into focus the need for more emphasis on accident prevention and explains the timing of the National Farm Safety Week campaign.

In recent years, much additional information has become available on the pattern of farm accidents. About a fifth of our farm folk each year sustain accidental injury causing at least one day's time lost from work or other activities. About 60 of each 100,000 farm people lose their lives annually because of accidents. Permanent injuries, including those that are partially as well as totally disabling, strike about 3 percent of our farm people annually. Another 16 percent have temporarily disabling injuries that involve time loss of a day or more. In addition, about 12 or 13 percent of our farm people sustain minor injuries that do not meet the definition of a disabling accident or that are not reported.

The farm accident pattern seems to shape up as follows: For every 1,000 reported accidents that involve disability (and time loss from normal activities), about 1,034 persons are involved, and they sustain about 1,230 injuries.

(Sometimes more than one person is involved in an accident or more than one injury is reported per person involved.)

Farm accidents happen more frequently to those in the older-aged groups, but even in the age group 15 to 24 about half of the total annual mortality is due to accidents. But of course for this younger age group, the all-cause death rate is low.

Recent studies indicate that farm accidents have not declined in proportion to the decline in farm population. Farms are isolated; little supervision is given to the work being done; and there is often not much opportunity for an injured person to receive first aid promptly. Secondary highways are often hazardous for safe driving. The high incidence of accidents to farm people also is due to the fact that farming is a family job running more nearly around the clock than is the case for many other occupations.

We know that carelessness plays a much more important role in accident causation than do the agencies of injury frequently named as the cause. Such agencies as motor vehicles, falls (a result rather than a cause) and machinery account for a substantial part of the accident toll. Farm accidents can only be reduced by a fuller realization of the dangers involved and by being more vigilant at work and on the highways.

John D. Rush
Economic Research Service



"ALICE IN NUMBERLAND" . . . AN S.R.S. MOVIE, JUST RELEASED



"ALICE IN NUMEERLAND" is a 14½-minute color movie. In it, Alice, a housewife, has a dream. She meets "Mr. Numbers," who tells the story of statistical reporting and importance of numbers.

Remember "Alice in Wonderland?"

Alice has moved to a new location called "Numberland."

"Alice in Numberland" is a new motion picture produced for the Statistical Reporting Service. It is 14½ minutes, in color. A scene from the movie is shown above.

The movie tells the story of the Statistical Reporting Service—its workers and its reports. It tells of volunteer reporters, shows why these people and the numbers they deal in are important to farmers, to retailers, and to housewives.

The Alice in the story is a housewife who becomes bewildered by the numbers she has to deal with merely in

planning meals and shopping for food. She dozes off at the kitchen table and her dream, about numbers, makes up the story of "Alice in Numberland."

In her dream, Alice meets a character named "Mr. Numbers." He guides her through Numberland and introduces such other characters as "Mr. Farmer," "Mr. Retailer," "Mr. Food Processor," and "Mr. Transporter." At each step she learns about the usefulness of numbers, beginning with the numbers that appear in Mr. Farmer's Crop Report.

If you would like to see "Alice in Numberland," some organization to which you belong might invite your State Agricultural Statistician to bring the movie to one of your meetings and to talk about his work.

DUAL BEEF GRADING BEGINS ON TRIAL BASIS THIS MONTH

An optional system of dual grading for beef was made available to the livestock and meat industry this month, following 10 years of experimentation and study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The system is being offered on an optional basis, scheduled to last until July 1, 1963, in addition to the conventional grading system.

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has stated that dual grading, which makes use of two separate and distinct grades for beef carcasses, promises cattle producers immediate as well as long-range benefits. "Specifically," said Freeman, "it will provide the means for the producer to be paid more nearly in line with the ultimate retail value of his product than is possible at present."

Dual grading could well serve as the incentive to beef producers to turn out more meat-type animals which provide beef best meeting the desires of the consumer. It would also permit the establishment of a logical system of price differentials.

To the cattle producer, this would mean that animals which yield a high percentage of trimmed retail meat cuts may be worth \$25 to \$30 per head more than the average.

In the past, slaughter cattle have been graded Prime, Choice, Good, Standard, Commercial, Utility, Cutter, or Canner. Such grades represent meat quality combined with the conformation of the animal. This combining process often results in carcasses with high quality meat, but a relatively poorer conformation, being given a lower grade than the quality of their meat would indicate.

Dual grading retains the current grades which relate to the eating quality of the meat, but adds a grade based upon cutability, the percentage of salable meat which the retailer can cut from the beef carcass. Differences in muscling or conformation will be reflected in this grade. Highest yielding animals receive a grade of No. 1, with the lowest grade being a No. 6.

Yield, or cutability, grades are predicted by considering four basic factors. Included in this determination are: (1) the thickness of fat over the rib eye muscle, (2) the size of the rib eye, (3) the quantity of kidney, pelvic and heart fat, and (4) the carcass weight. The new dual grade is more inclusive than the single grade in that the actual yield of the animal is estimated.

During the past year the Livestock Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has conducted pilot grading programs in packing companies to field-test dual grading. Two four-week studies indicated that about one-half of the nearly 13,000 carcasses involved qualified for a yield grade of No. 3. Another 25 percent yield graded No. 1 or 2. The remaining 25 percent were graded No. 4, 5, or 6.

Of the carcasses which graded Choice under conventional standards, 5.6 percent would have graded Prime under the dual grading system, and 14 percent of those which graded Good under conventional standards would have graded Choice using dual grading.

Cutability differences in live animals can be predicted quite precisely as revealed by a series of studies conducted by the Livestock Division. These studies, which included about 1,000 animals, have demonstrated that in about 50 percent of the cattle, the yield of boneless cuts from the round, loin, rib, and chuck can be estimated to within 1.0 percent of the carcass evaluation. About 80 percent can be estimated to within 2.0 percent accuracy. It is here that the producer receives his greatest benefits, for buyers who readily recognize live animals with a high cutability potential can afford to pay higher prices for the stock.

The trial period for dual grading began July 1. The one year of operation is planned to allow ample opportunity to evaluate the new standards before comments are presented. After this period, those who have had contact with the dual-grading program are invited to submit comments to the USDA.

Meet the State Statistician . . .



PAUL POWNALL

Biggest and newest of the States, Alaska has the most widely scattered farms, the newest and smallest staff of agricultural statisticians, and is the only State in which the report on agricultural production includes reindeer meat.

Alaska's lone agricultural statistician is Paul Pownall. He opened his office in Palmer, in the Matanuska Valley, in the summer of 1960, after eight years of collecting and reporting livestock statistics in Wyoming. In those eight years he had declined opportunities to transfer to California and to return to Maryland, where he and his wife had lived for four years. But when he was given the opportunity to establish the Alaska Crop Reporting Service, the Pownalls packed and moved to Palmer.

This decision marks Paul Pownall as a young man full of energy and ideas. And he is. Young, that is, for a man who graduated from Iowa State College in 1916, saw Army service in World War I, and farmed in Iowa for 20 years before going to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1940.

Mr. Pownall came into agricultural statistical work through a "side door," as an interviewer, gathering farmers' opinions and attitudes for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Six years later, he became an agricultural statistician for BAE, predecessor to the Statistical Reporting Service. His itin-

erary as a statistician led from Washington, D.C., to Maryland and Delaware and to Wyoming. Then to Alaska.

"It was the challenge of Alaska that attracted me," Paul Pownall says. The challenge of gathering statistics is perhaps second only to the challenge of farming in this land where farms are clustered in five widely separated areas, where many of the 17,000 acres of crop land have been chopped out of the woods, where winters are cold but not severe (30 to 35 degrees below zero are record lows), where the principal threat to the barley crop may be hungry moose.

Information about production and supply is important to Alaska's farmers, largely because of the State's unusual economy. If a military post or a food chain decides to quit buying local milk, eggs, or potatoes, in favor of importing those items from "southern" States, the farmers of the area may not have another market.

Paul Pownall's second annual report estimates the value of Alaska's farm production in 1961 at \$5,703,500, about one-fourth of it used on the farms. Of the total value, 43 percent came from milk, 14 percent from potatoes, and 8 percent from eggs. From Nuni-vak Island, off the West Coast, came 484,000 pounds of reindeer meat, which topped Alaska's total production of pork and beef.

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July 1962

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Editor: William Whyte

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
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